

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

FEBRUARY 15, 2013

A meeting of the Commission for Human Rights was held on Friday, February 15, 2013 in the agency conference room. Present at the meeting were Commissioners John B. Susa, Chair, Camille Vella-Wilkinson and Alberto Aponte Cardona. Commissioners Alton W. Wiley, Jr., Iraida Williams, Rochelle Bates Lee and Nancy Kolman Ventrone were not present. The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m.

Commissioner Cardona moved to approve the minutes of the Commission meeting held on January 25, 2013. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vella-Wilkinson and carried.

Status Report of Michael D. Evora, Executive Director

A written report was handed out. All new information is in bold print.

Case Production Report – Attached

Aged Case Report – No aged cases to report.

Outreach Report – attached

STATUS REPORT – COMMISSIONERS

STATUS REPORT: Commissioner reappointments still have not been made as of yet. The Commissioners discussed scheduling, reading documents on flash drives and the best way to be contacted. Commissioner Vella-Wilkinson proposed moving the meeting time to 9:00 a.m. This will be further discussed at the next meeting. Commissioner Vella-Wilkinson asked the Commission to consider whether it should host an event for the Commission's 65th anniversary in 2014.

OUTREACH: Commissioner Vella-Wilkinson reported that the Warwick Diversity Commissions subcommittee is planning a Women's History program in March. The program will highlight three phenomenal women in history. More information to come.

Commissioner Meeting -2- February 15, 2013

STATUS REPORT – LEGAL COUNSEL by Cynthia Hiatt and Francis Gaschen

LITIGATION: Report Attached. Discussion of pending litigation.

LEGISLATION: Commissioners and staff discussed pending

legislation.

Commissioner Vella-Wilkinson is working with the sponsor regarding the language in bill H5109, which would prohibit housing discrimination against active military or those who have been honorably discharged, and is advocating for broader protection for veterans to include those who received a general discharge. Commissioners discussed bills which would prohibit housing discrimination on the basis of government assistance recipient status. Commissioners decided not to take a position at this time. Angela Lovegrove, Housing Director, will look up housing information for further discussion at the next meeting.

REGULATIONS: No report at this time.

HEARING SCHEDULE: Discussed

DECISIONS: No decisions were discussed at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m. The next regular meeting on Friday, March 29, 2013 at 12:30 p.m. The Commissioner meeting set for April 26, 2013 has been cancelled.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael D. Evora

Executive Director

Notes taken by B. Ross

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S

REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS

15 February 2013

I. BUDGET

S = State/General Revenue; F = Federal (EEOC/HUD); T = Total

FY 2013	FY 2013	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2014	FY 2014
(Enacted)	(Rev. Req.)	(Supp.)	(Unconstr.)	(Constr.)	(Recomm.)
S 1,137,768	1,137,768	1,133,129	1,192,069	1,121,778	1,150,785
F 325,992	306,689	306,688	258,638	301,405	308,638
T 1,463,760	1,444,457	1,439,817	1,450,707	1,423,183	1,459,423

The Commission's FY 13 (Revised) and FY 14 (Proposed) Budgets

were submitted to the Governor on September 25. The submission included a Budget Impact Statement detailing the consequences to be realized should the seven percent general revenue decrease requested of all state agencies be implemented for the Commission [see Constrained Budget above]. On November 2, I met with representatives of the Budget Office to discuss the Office's pending recommendation to the Governor. On January 22, a bill was introduced which included the above supplemental budget for FY 13 and recommended budget for FY 14. The bill included authorization for the Commission's full 14.5 FTEs for FY 14. The House Finance Committee's hearing on the Commission's FY13 and FY14 budgets will take place on March 13.

II. FEDERAL CONTRACTS

EEOC – For federal FY 2012 (beginning October 1, 2011), according to EEOC Project Director Marlene Toribio, we closed 237 co-filed cases.

Our contract with EEOC for FY 2012 was for 235 cases. For federal FY 2013 (beginning October 1, 2012), we have closed 60 co-filed cases. Our contract with EEOC for FY 13 is as yet unknown.

HUD – For FY 12, according to HUD Project Director Angela Lovegrove, we took in 40 new housing charges, 37 of which were co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we processed 45 housing charges, 43 of which were co-filed with HUD. For FY 13 (beginning July 1, 2012), we have taken in 27 new housing charges,

all of which are co-filed with HUD. Within this same time period, we have processed 22 cases, 19 of which were co-filed with HUD.

III. PERSONNEL

No new information.

IV. OUTREACH – Refer to attached report.

V. GENERAL STATUS

●Meetings with staff members – I continue to meet with individual investigative staff members on a monthly basis to monitor case production.

●Case Closures – Refer to attached report.

We ended FY 2012 slightly behind the prior fiscal year's case processing rate. In FY 2011, we processed 422 cases; in FY 2012, we processed 411 cases (approx. 3.5% decrease). For FY 2013 (as of January 31, 2013), we have processed 215 cases (compare to 229 cases in this same time period in FY 12).

●Aged Cases – There are no aged cases in the Commission's inventory for federal fiscal year 2013 (beginning October 1, 2012).

●Overall Case Inventory – The Commission had over 1000

cases in its inventory at the end of FY 1998. We ended FY 11 with 323 cases in inventory, and FY 12 with 255 cases. As of 2/14/13, we had a total of 278 cases in inventory; 17 of these cases were pending assignment.

●Information Technology – DoIT has conducted a review of the Commission’s server/IT system and determined that the server will end its useful life in 2014. DoIT has recommended the purchase of a service agreement through Dell to cover the server until January 2014. That service agreement has been purchased. The Commission has opted not to connect to the state’s “virtual” server and has ordered a new server to be installed in February.

●Performance Management Initiative – On February 1, I met with the Governor’s Performance Management Team to discuss the Commission’s agreed-upon performance goals. The Team noted that the Commission is one of the only state agencies that consistently complies with the Performance Management Directive in a complete/timely manner. These meetings will occur quarterly.

●Budget Analyst – Theo Toe, the agency’s Budget Analyst for the past 17 years, has left the Budget Office for a new position in state service. We await word on his replacement.

●HUD Fair Housing Month Event – HUD is planning a Fair Housing Month event at the Touro Synagogue in Newport for April 10,

2013. The event will be cosponsored by HUD, the Commission and the Anti-Defamation League. The event will include a keynote, two panels (one of which will be on the history of the Civil Rights Movement), and a lunch. More details to follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael D. Évora

Executive Director

Attachments